

Ellis Island

Self-Guided Activity (Grades 9-12)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Statue of Liberty National Monument
New York, NY 10004



Immigrant File

Name	Rosaria Esposito
Age/ Gender	16/ Female
Last Place of Residence	Lucca, Italy
Nationality/Ethnicity	Italian
Date of Arrival	April 25, 1912
Marital Status	Single
Occupation	Seamstress
English Fluency	Poor
Category	Permanent Residency
Steamship	Prinzess Irene
Port of Departure	Naples
Manifest Line Number	Steerage/4/0018
Summary	<p>Ms. Rosaria Esposito has arrived at Ellis Island with her fourteen year old brother Adolfo, and wants to be granted permanent residency in the United States. Ms. Esposito plans to find work as a seamstress in a factory in New York City. She believes that building an economic livelihood in the U.S. will greatly improve both her and her family's standing. Ms. Esposito's brother is recently battling a serious scalp condition, which he claims to have contracted on the trip.</p> <p>Documents Supplied:</p> <p>Passport ____ Birth Certificate ____</p> <p>Marriage Certificate ____ Other _____</p>

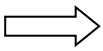


Follow Rosaria Esposito's route through Ellis Island:

Great Hall (2nd Floor) (Audio Tour Stops #3 and #4)

When you ascend the stairs, six men in uniform look over individuals with a very discerning eye. While you passed the medical examination seamlessly, your fourteen year old brother, Adolfo, gets pulled aside and "Sc" is written on his coat with a piece of chalk on his chest. Doctors pull him away for further inspection at a medical station fifty feet away.

Imagine being separated from family and friends after you've just arrived in a new country and are unsure of where to go next. How would you react?



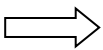
Please use this space for your answer.



Through America's Gate (2nd Floor) (Audio Tour Stop #7)

Walk through the exhibit, *Through America's Gate* to get a detailed account of how immigrants were processed at Ellis Island.

Head to the gallery "Medical Inspection" and take a look at the chart, "Step-by-step through the Inspection Process." Consider how your situation may be different if Adolfo gets sent for further medical treatment. How might your choices be different if Adolfo's condition worsens?



Please use this space for your answer.



National Park Service, Statue of Liberty National Monument



Dormitory Rooms (3rd Floor)

You have decided to stay to look after your brother, Adolfo, who has to receive treatment for favus (a scalp condition) and will be detained here over night, and maybe much longer. Proceed to the third floor and explore the cots that you will be staying in tonight. 1) What will it be like to sleep in this dormitory room? 2) What would you do to pass your time?

Please use this space for your answer.



Graffiti Walls (3rd floor in the center corridor underneath the sign “3 EAST”) (Audio Tour Stop #19)

Immigrants detained here over night like you, Rosaria, vented many of their frustrations on the wall at Ellis Island.



Try to interpret some of the inscriptions written on the graffiti columns either on the third floor or on the graffiti columns exhibit near the end of *Through America's Gate*. What do you think the detainee wrote on the wall? OR What feelings do you think the detained immigrant was expressing through this graffiti? If you were a newly-arrived immigrant today, what issues or concerns would you want to voice? Use the space below as an area for graffiti.

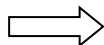
Please use this space for your answer.



Peak Immigration Years (2nd Floor) (Audio Tour Stop #15)

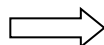
Medical inspectors determined that Adolfo's favus condition will be easily treatable and will be released the next day. Head back to the second floor to the galleries *Peak Immigration Years* to the exhibit "Between Two Worlds."

What would help you decide where you and your brother, Adolfo, are going next? How can organizations like Mutual Aid Societies help you with this process?

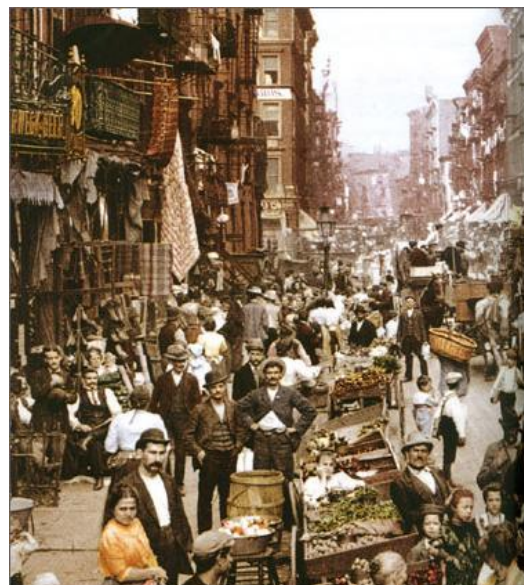


Please use this space for your answer.

As you walk by this gallery, what are some traditions that you, as Rosaria, would want to keep as an immigrant? What would help you preserve these cultural and religious traditions?



Please use this space for your answer.



"Mulberry Street, New York City"
courtesy Library of Congress